



City of Austin

Leslie Pool, Council Member District 7

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CM Pool Budget Amendment #3

Co-Sponsors: Council Members Alter, Harper-Madison

Essential Child Care at City Recreation Centers

SD23: Economic Opportunity & Affordability, Health & Environment, Culture & Lifelong Learning

Providing \$1.5 Million for Added Child Care Capacity at City Recreation Centers

The Parks & Recreation Department's Out of School Time provides essential childcare at city recreation centers, offering academic, social, and physical benefits in a safe and supportive environment.

In FY20, Council supported additional child care capacity for 72 more children in 3 centers. This year's request would serve even more families across six recreation centers for Eastern Crescent communities. **For every \$200,000 in funding, the child care program can serve an additional 50 students per week – at \$1.5 million, this funding will serve an additional 375 children.** During COVID-19, many of Austin's families are dealing with uncertainty surrounding school re-openings, and are challenged with finding affordable, high quality child care. This increase will provide some relief to Austin families.

Post-pandemic, additional capacity at the recreation and cultural centers will continue to provide accessible child care with programs that ensure educational, physical, and social benefits.

Assisting Schools during COVID-19

- PARD staff are actively collaborating with Austin ISD and other school districts to use recreation centers as safe spaces for child care and virtual learning with social distancing while schools are at reduced capacity. With the centers serving as additional educational locations for students, area schools will be less burdened by capacity limitations, and families will have a safe place for their children during the school day.

| PARD Recreation Centers to Receive Added Child Care Capacity | | District |
|--|--|----------|
| Dittmar Rec Center | | 2 |
| Dove Springs Rec Center | | 2 |
| Givens Rec Center | | 1 |
| Gus Garcia Rec Center | | 4 |
| Pan American Recreation Center | | 3 |
| Turner Roberts Rec Center | | 1 |

- While AISD buildings are closed or operating at limited capacity, the program will run during typical "school" hours in addition to the standard after-school and summer-camp hours, and will be spread across all recreation centers. Social distancing and other health and environmental protocols will be in place to safeguard student wellbeing.
- This additional funding will enable PARD to respond flexibly to changes in school opening/closures, while continuing to support children and families.